Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8114
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 1744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS FR SO

SUBJ: FURTHER DETAILS ON DJIBOUTI KIDNAPPING

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY VISITED DJIBOUTI ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. DURING VISIT HE LEARNED THAT TOTAL OF 1,000 RIOT POLICE INCLUDING A SNIPER SQUAD, HAD BEEN FLOWN INTO DJIBOUTI IM-MEDIATELY AFTER THE FEB 3 KIDNAPPING TOOK PLACE. AFTER THE BUS CONTAINING THE CHILDREN AND THE KIDNAPPERS WAS HALTED SHORT OF THE BORDER, FRENCH NEGOTIATED TO ALLOW A NURSE AND DOCTOR TO BOARD THE BUS. THEY ALSO WERE ALLOWED TO FEED CHILDREN A MEAL. ACCORDING TO EMBOFF'S SOURCES, FOOD GIVEN CHILDREN CONTAINED TRANOUILIZERS. AS CHILDREN BECAME TIRED. DOCTOR AND NURSE HAD THEM LIE DOWN BELOW LEVEL OF BUS WINDOWS. OUTSIDE, THE 10-MAN SNIPER SQUAD (TWO PER VISIBLE TERRORIST) TOOK AIM AT TERRORISTS. UPON A GIVEN SIGNAL, SNIPERS OPENED FIRE AKILLING ALL FIVE. ONE TERRORIST WAS ON THE BUS FLOOR AND RETURNED FIRE. APPARENTLY, ONE GIRL WAS NOT FULLY ASLEEP AND RAISED HER HEAD TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. SHE WAS KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE. ALTHOUGH FRENCH CLAIM SHE WAS KILLED BY TERRORIST, RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATH IS UNCLEAR.

 $2.\ \mbox{DURING INCIDENT},$ A FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION LIEUTENANT CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED OR WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO SOURCES,

THIS ENRAGED LEGIONNAIRES ON SCENE AND, ALTHOUGH THIS PART IS NOT CONFIRMED, THEY ALLEGEDLY MADE SORTIE INTO SOMALIA. COMMENT: THIS COULD EXPLAINE SOMALI STATEMENTS ABOUT ATTACKS ON LOYADA TOWN. END COMMENT

- 3. EMBOFF REPORTS THAT LRAI LEADER AHMED DINI HAS BEEN ARRESTED. LPAI LEADERS ARE REPORTEDLY PLANNING ANTI-ALI AREF DEMONSTRATION FOR FEB 11 TO PRESS FOR DINI'S RELEASE.
- 4. EXCEPT FOR HEART OF DJIBOUTI AND PORT (EUROPEAN AREA OF CITY), THERE IS A 9:30 PM CURFEW. FRENCH RIOT POLICE AND LOCAL POLICE GUARD THE STREET CORNERS. THE PERIMETER OF THE CITY IS GUARDED BY LEGIONNAIRES. HUMMEL

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Subject: FURTHER DETAILS ON DJIBOUTI KIDNAPPING

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